

ABSTRACT

In a blood analyzer for separating plasma in a flow channel by centrifugal operation, it is intended to effectively utilize a whole blood sample supplied into the flow channel, shorten the flow channel and reduce the apparatus size. It is also intended to reduce the amount of the blood to be collected, thereby reducing the burden on a subject. A blood cell reservoir wherein blood cells are precipitated is provided in a flow channel of a blood analyzer along the centrifugal direction upon centrifugation. Then blood cells are cumulated in the reservoir by centrifugation so that the plasma fraction is allowed to continuously exist in both of the upstream and downstream sides of the U-shaped flow channel without being divided by the blood cell fraction. Thus, the plasma in a required amount can be fed into the analysis means using a smaller amount of the whole blood. Therefore, the whole blood can be utilized more efficiently, which is suitable for the shortening of the flow channel and the reduction of the device size. The plasma, which is not divided by the blood cell fraction, can be transferred due to a lower negative suction pressure. Thus, the pump capacity required in drawing the plasma can be reduced, which contributes to the size reduction and cost down of peripheral devices.